United Nations E/2002/SR.43

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

22 November 2002

Original: English

Resumed substantive session of 2002

Provisional summary record of the 43rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 4 October 2002, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Šimonović ..... (Croatia)

Contents

Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique

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02-62087 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique

1. **Mr. Šimonović** (President) said that the purpose of the meeting was not simply to mark the tenth anniversary of the signing in Rome of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique, which had ended 16 years of civil war, but also to encourage Mozambique, which was now moving on to the task of pursuing lasting economic and social development. That was why the Council was such an appropriate forum for the commemoration. The United Nations had also played a role in the post-conflict period through the two-year United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). The presence at the celebrations of so many senior figures from the United Nations was a recognition of the need for the main bodies of the Organization to cooperate in achieving its goals. Recent events had made the link between security and peace-building clear, and the experience of Mozambique would be useful in other situations.

2. **Ms. Fréchette** (Deputy Secretary-General) said that the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique had ended a conflict that had driven millions from their homes, destroyed much of the country's economic and social infrastructure and killed hundreds of thousands either directly or through hunger and disease.

3. The people of Mozambique had chosen the path of peace and had worked hard to safeguard democratic elections and human rights, and to build a dynamic civil society. They had coped bravely with two more recent challenges: the floods of February 2000 and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

4. Mozambique's experience held lessons for all countries. A number of factors stood out as particularly important. The first was political will: the parties had realized that there could be no military solution to the conflict and had committed themselves to resolving their differences through negotiation. The second was leadership: President Chissano and Mr. Dhlakama of RENAMO had both been pragmatic and flexible in implementing the General Peace Agreement. The third was economic and social development: improvements in people's lives had demonstrated that peace could bring rewards. Fourth was international support, which had come from the European Union, Japan and other sources. Fifth was the regional context: the end of apartheid and the establishment of democratic rule in South Africa had improved prospects for all the countries around it. Sixth was institutional renewal: ONUMOZ had focused on that process, which had turned the former opposition movement into a political party. The Southern African Development Community's regional cooperation mechanisms had provided opportunities for Mozambique. Seventh was the clear mandate the Security Council had given the Organization.

5. Mozambique had defied the common negative stereotype of African countries, proving what effective partnership could achieve. Reconstruction was not complete, however, and the Council should remain involved with Mozambique. The present meeting was an opportunity to pledge renewed commitment to the future security and well-being of the country's people.

6. **Mr. Santos Simão** (Mozambique) said that Mozambique's success could only truly be understood by looking at the origins and dynamics of the country's conflict. Angola and Mozambique had emerged as independent nations at the height of the Cold War. They had caused a shift in the balance of power in southern Africa, and had spurred on decolonization. Mozambique's enemies had reacted to the new and alternative model of society which the country was building by turning Mozambican against Mozambican.

7. The parties to the negotiations leading to the General Peace Agreement had put the national interest, peace and the prospect of a better future for everyone above political and ideological differences and outside manipulation. The Agreement had addressed all the main concerns of the parties to the conflict, and the commitment of those parties to abide by it, direct and regular contact between them, their ability to control their followers and the inclusion of confidence-building measures to allay fears had contributed to its lasting success.

8. Peace-building efforts had also addressed the deep trauma of the people. The Government had worked in close partnership with NGOs and civil society in general to implement disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation programmes. Rehabilitation and integration had been a delicate process requiring a true spirit of reconciliation, openness and forgiveness, as the former rebels had perpetrated atrocities against other Mozambicans. They

had nevertheless been successfully reabsorbed into society. That had paid dividends during demining, as they had helped to locate the mines that had been laid. Demining had in turn helped to ensure the safety of returning refugees and internally displaced persons, and enabled resettlement and reconstruction to begin. The disarming of ex-combatants had also been of symbolic importance, providing a clear sense that the war was over and that peace was irreversible.

9. Reconstruction had focused on basic socio-economic infrastructure such as schools, health-care facilities, roads and bridges. It had relied on the labour of the recipients of the aid, through innovative food-for-work and self-employment projects. That had also encouraged the recipients to feel that they had ownership of the reconstruction process.

10. With the end of violence and war, expectations had been high, and the Government had been under pressure to deliver rapid economic and social benefits from a virtually paralyzed economy. Elections carried the risk of instability if one or other party failed to accept the results and could have endangered the post-conflict process rather than acting as a confidence-building measure. To prevent that outcome, each of the opposing sides had to be in a winning situation, and that had been at the root of the effort to equip ex-combatants with basic skills and material and financial help, to discourage them from resorting to violence and banditry to fulfil their needs. The outcome of Mozambique's effort had been positive and it now had a fully fledged democracy that had been tested by popular vote through two general and presidential elections.

11. Rehabilitation of basic infrastructure and the demining operations had made it possible to reactivate the rural economy, a step vital to improving the income of the largest section of the population. The economy was now one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Economic growth had brought more social investment and by 1998, all of the country's educational and health facilities had been rebuilt. By 2000, the school enrolment rate was once again 93 per cent.

12. Challenges remained, however. The HIV/AIDS pandemic and other major diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and cholera were taking a heavy toll among the young and highly skilled, depriving the country of essential human resources, and, despite Mozambique's remarkable success, almost 70 per cent of the population still lived in absolute poverty. The Government had made poverty reduction a high priority.

13. Democratization also needed to be consolidated through the strengthening of institutions. The police and judiciary needed to be more effective, better trained and better paid in order to tackle organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and the protection of ordinary citizens and human rights. Overall working conditions and training also needed to be improved throughout the public service, to increase capacity and expertise and reduce vulnerability to corruption and bribes. The Government had embarked on reform of the public service with those goals in mind.

14. The international community had a key role to play in peace processes in general, not only as facilitator and mediator but also by providing the necessary credibility, prestige and seriousness. The role of the international community was critical in creating not just the material conditions needed for successful peace-building, but also the conditions for post-conflict recovery, as international partners could support national NGOs and opposition political parties. In that connection, funding had to be seen to be open and transparent, so that there could be no perception of a hidden agenda, undermining the credibility of the donor and the recipients alike.

15. The role of the United Nations had been fundamental at all stages of the peace process in Mozambique. Its presence had improved the quality of the dialogue between the Government and the other parties involved, and it had increased the confidence of the participants, particularly during the early stages when there had been great doubt about the outcome. The United Nations had also been a channel for many countries to express their solidarity and support for Mozambique by sending peacekeepers, technical experts and media and NGO representatives. Once the peacekeeping stage had ended, the United Nations had remained active in peace-building and long-term development efforts. That solidarity and support had helped Mozambique to understand that it had an obligation to help and encourage peoples in conflict to achieve peace, and that was why peace was the single most important objective of its foreign policy.

16. **Mr. Belinga-Ebontou** (Cameroon), speaking in his capacity as President of the Security Council, said

that, in celebrating the Mozambican people's successful efforts to rebuild their country after 16 years of civil war, the Council was also celebrating a successful instance of coordination within the United Nations system to promote peace and development in Africa, for the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council had together planned and overseen the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). The letter had coordinated peacekeeping and reconstruction operations and overseen demobilization, the creation of an integrated army and economic renewal.

17. He welcomed the efforts to increase cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, in particular with regard to peacekeeping and peace-building, through the creation of working groups and recognition of the multidimensional aspect of peacekeeping operations. For the Security Council, peace-building implied an integrated approach to peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction, which included dealing with the root causes of conflicts and their economic and social dimensions. The activities undertaken by the Economic and Social Council in the area of post-conflict reconstruction were a logical extension of peacekeeping operations.

18. Finally, he extended to the people and Government of Mozambique his most fervent wishes for success and prosperity and said he was especially proud that an African country was being lauded as an example of peace-building, reconciliation, economic progress and devotion to democracy.

19. **Mr. Kavan** (Czech Republic), speaking in his capacity as President of the General Assembly, said that the example of the United Nations involvement in Mozambique illustrated the value of timely deployment of United Nations missions with a comprehensive mandate for consolidating peace in a post-conflict environment. Success would not, however, have been possible without the commitment of the Government and people of Mozambique to securing peace and rebuilding their country. That experience should serve as an example for other African countries experiencing protracted conflicts and instability, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola or Guinea-Bissau.

20. Political, economic and social reforms had created an environment attractive to foreign investors. Renewed commitment to a multiparty system and full participation of the population must be maintained in order to safeguard the democratic foundations which had been created through the electoral process. Capacity-building efforts within Government institutions and the private sector in order to better plan, manage and implement development strategies would need to be further reinforced. That would require enhanced government structures and inter- and intra-sectoral coordination to maximize benefits for all Mozambicans, regardless of geographic or regional isolation or gender.

21. Many United Nations agencies, through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), continued to help the country to overcome the years of conflict and promote economic development. Along with the Government, the donor community, non-governmental organizations and civil society partners, the United Nations system intended to mobilize over US$ 300 million for the period 2002-2006. The Organization's support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), in which Mozambique was participating, was a further example of the Organization's continuing commitment to stability and economic prosperity in Africa.

22. Despite a notable economic recovery, Mozambique remained a least developed country and still faced many problems, one of the foremost being extreme poverty. However, since the historic multiparty elections in 1994, Mozambique had taken significant steps towards consolidating democracy and implementing a comprehensive economic reform programme and he wished it further successes in the difficult task of maintaining stability and building capacity.

23. **Mr. Brown** (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that the story of Mozambique was not just a post-conflict success story but an example of what could be achieved when the leadership and Government of a country were committed to rebuilding their nation, and had a genuine desire for reconciliation.

24. At the time of the peace agreement, UNDP had been working in Mozambique for 15 years and was therefore well-placed to help with the task of rebuilding the nation. That involved rebuilding the entire infrastructure as well as the economy, governance systems and social relations, for the

economy was in tatters, national security had broken down, landmines were everywhere and there were more than 90,000 soldiers who had to be demobilized and reintegrated.

25. In the area of demobilization and resettlement, in cooperation with national partners and United Nations agencies, UNDP had supported the work of ONUMOZ by providing training, counselling and start-up capital to large numbers of demobilized soldiers, internally displaced persons and refugees, providing them with a real peace dividend, i.e., economically viable alternatives to war. In cooperation with the international community and the United Nations system, UNDP had provided food supplies, seeds and tools for resettled refugees and promoted institutional capacity-building, which had enabled the new Government to guide the demobilization and reintegration process.

26. In the area of electoral support, UNDP had been instrumental in resource mobilization, capacity-building, voter education and registration, developing a model which had been applied subsequently in Indonesia and Sierra Leone. The contribution of the entire international community had been essential in organizing a credible and sustainable electoral process.

27. UNDP had also contributed to the rule of law, providing training to police and prison officials and training parliamentarians in legislative processes, including drafting of legislation, thereby contributing to the continued stability of the democratic process. Together with other partners it had assisted the Government in implementing rural development programmes to alleviate poverty and rejuvenate the rural economy, which was critical for economic development.

28. The experience in Mozambique provided important lessons on the need for joint collaboration with a wide cross-section of partners in post-conflict situations and attested to the critical role of Government, civil society and indeed the entire population in building peace. The people of Mozambique had risen above the challenges facing them, and the international community felt privileged to have been able to help them share their country's destiny. The tremendous response to requests for relief, in the face of the recent disastrous floods, proved that donors were, in fact, quite prepared to support Governments in which they had faith.

29. **Mr. Koonjul** (Mauritius), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, said that the lessons learned in Mozambique could be used in other post-conflict situations.

30. The success of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique could be attributed to a number of factors, the foremost being the Government's unequivocal commitment to implementation of the Agreement. By ensuring continuing dialogue, the nation's political leadership had created a climate of confidence, which had led to the return of a large number of refugees and displaced persons. The people as a whole had shown a commitment to the peace process. The consolidation of peace through political and economic reforms, strengthening of democratic institutions, establishment of a unified army, a comprehensive reconciliation process and the creation of conditions for economic growth, had laid the foundation for sustained economic development. ONUMOZ and the international community had also helped by contributing much-needed financial and other assistance.

31. The establishment of a true culture of peace and tolerance was an essential ingredient of long-term and sustainable peace and the successful disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants in Mozambique had been critical to ensuring the irreversibility of the peace process. The mandate of ONUMOZ had gone beyond transitional peacekeeping and included political, military, electoral and humanitarian components. The Reintegration Commission (CORE), through its reintegration support scheme (RSS), and assisted by UNDP had provided occupational, business and microenterprise training to demobilized soldiers, providing them with employment opportunities, thus ensuring their reintegration. Those programmes which had cost nearly US$ 95,000,000, would not have been possible without international support. Their success underscored the importance of adequate funding for peace-building programmes.

32. The importance of an effective process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration was perhaps the most important lesson that could be applied to other areas still facing conflicts. A comprehensive strategy in that regard remained the key to long-term sustainable peace, and all relevant United Nations bodies should work towards that goal, for incomplete

disarmament, demobilization and reintegration could lead to renewed fighting, as had been seen in the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau.

33. The disarmament process could not be complete without a proper weapon collection and disposal strategy. Weapons, mostly small and light weapons, often remained in circulation in post-conflict situations, and that resulted in the killing of 500,000 people each year and the displacement of large numbers of civilians. The illicit circulation of small and light weapons was a direct and constant threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development. Africa was one of the regions most affected. He welcomed the recommendations contained in the recent report of the Secretary-General on small arms.

34. The Bretton Woods institutions should give special attention to countries emerging from armed conflict, which had difficulty in finding sufficient resources for economic reconstruction. Owing to their precarious situations, they particularly needed investors and donors to provide assistance. It was true that peace and stability were prerequisites for development, but the converse was also true: there could be no peace or stability without development. International financial institutions must show the utmost flexibility in providing assistance in such cases. A step-by-step approach was required owing to the countries' low absorption capacity for economic and financial assistance.

35. Post-conflict peace-building programmes should include a civic education component in order to promote tolerance for diversity of opinion and create an enabling environment for a pluralistic society. Experience in Mozambique had also demonstrated the importance of a smooth transition from peacekeeping to peace-building activities.

36. Mozambique's economy remained extremely fragile for Mozambique remained vulnerable to devastating floods and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS was high. Moreover, there were still many landmines to be cleared.

37. Investment by the international community, particularly the United Nations, in Mozambique must continue until the country's reconstruction was complete. The United Nations system should coordinate its efforts with those of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union and other regional and subregional organizations.

38. Mozambique was one of the few African States seeing real peace dividends. Some countries were still embroiled in severe conflicts, and others had seen no serious economic takeoff despite the end of armed conflict. The international community must mobilize its efforts to ensure that countries emerging from conflict were provided with the necessary assistance. That required strong, long-term commitment by political leaders to undertake the necessary reforms and other measures to embark on the path of reconciliation and economic development.

39. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the greatest credit for the success of the peace agreement belonged to Mozambique's leaders and people, but the international community could take some pride in having responded appropriately and promptly to the country's needs. The work of the United Nations system in Mozambique had had a considerable influence on thinking in many areas of the system. It must not be forgotten that post-conflict recovery and peace-building were even harder to manage than peacekeeping and peace negotiations.

40. It was generally recognized that there were many problems specific to post-conflict development situations but it had not been clear whether they should be handled by the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, or another body. He therefore welcomed the decision by the Economic and Social Council to set up an ad hoc working group for that purpose. Perhaps by 2012, the Council would be celebrating a decade of peace, democracy and development in countries such as Rwanda and Liberia.

41. **Mr. Fonseca** (Brazil), speaking on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, which now included Timor-Leste, said that the story of Mozambique demonstrated that when the country led and the right conditions were present, the United Nations system could contribute decisively to national endeavours. The story of Mozambique also showed that, when United Nations programmes, funds and agencies coordinated their actions under the leadership of the national government, tangible and long-lasting results could be obtained.

42. Mozambique had made significant progress and had achieved rapid economic growth over the past

decade, though it still had a number of challenges to address. The Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries pledged its continuing support for Mozambique's development efforts, particularly through South-South cooperation, and urged the international community to continue contributing to Mozambique's national endeavours to promote development and enhance the quality of life of its people.

43. **Sir Jeremy Greenstock** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, said that development and conflict resolution were inextricably linked. The international community must learn from the success of Mozambique in implementing effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes as a first step to longer-term peace and development. Consideration must also be given to the significance of that success for the United Nations system.

44. His Government had recognized Mozambique's remarkable achievements by substantially increasing its development commitments to that country over the past few years. The practical demonstration of what had worked in Mozambique showed that closer relations between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council were a necessity, and that issues of conflict, peace and security, economic development and social cohesion could not be treated as separate and independent components in formulating strategies for peace and development. Events had disproved the mistaken idea that a dollar spent on post-crisis and conflict countries was a dollar less for development programmes. The best way for the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council to give life to their new ad hoc working groups was for the latter to study success stories such as Mozambique and for countries successfully emerging from conflict to help others to learn lessons.

45. **Mr. Elfarnawany** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the case of Mozambique showed that Africans could overcome years of conflict and embark on a path of sustained progress and development. For that to happen, however, there were three preconditions: there must be concerted will and political determination by all parties to a conflict to reconcile their differences through a negotiated settlement; the international community must play a part in nurturing the process throughout all its phases; and the international community, including United Nations bodies and the Bretton Woods institutions, must remain engaged throughout the delicate transition period of post-conflict peace-building.

46. All those ingredients had been present in the case of Mozambique. Perhaps the most pressing challenge facing the African States would be Somalia where all the parties to that conflict would shortly be embarking upon an ambitious national reconciliation conference. Its outcome would certainly depend on the assistance and cooperation of the international community.

47. **Mr. Aldouri** (Observer for Iraq), speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, applauded the efforts of the Government of Mozambique to ensure the success of the agreement reached 10 years earlier, to establish peace, stability and prosperity and to build a model for dialogue and tolerance, and noted that the United Nations and the international community had contributed greatly to its success. All possible assistance should be provided in order to fight poverty and HIV/AIDS and help Mozambique to build a viable economy.

48. Peace and stability were the key to fulfilling the goals and aspirations of peoples and Governments in establishing justice, development and democracy, so as to provide for the coming generations an opportunity to live in a world where equity, stability and prosperity prevailed.

49. **Mr. Sealy** (Observer for Trinidad and Tobago), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, said that the celebration of the anniversary of the Mozambican peace agreement was a fitting tribute to the strenuous efforts by all sectors of Mozambican society over the past 10 years to heal the wounds of the past and to forge a brighter economic and social future for all its people.

50. The success of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique was indicative of the important contribution which such operations could make in overcoming deep divisions in post-civil war societies. Mozambique was an example to all countries faced with similar circumstances. The members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States pledged their continued support for Mozambique in its efforts to ensure the full achievement of peace, economic and social progress and national reconciliation.

51. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that over the past 10 years the people of Mozambique had demonstrated that, given the political will of all the parties involved and support from the international community, peace could flourish even after a prolonged conflict. As a result, Mozambique now had one of the fastest growing economies in the world. That achievement was even more remarkable given the fact that the international development climate in recent years left much to be desired. The Group of 77 and China trusted that the Council would establish a firm mandate for an ad hoc advisory group on Guinea-Bissau.

52. **Mr. Moesby** (Observer for Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that Mozambique's success had been based on three elements: a national commitment to peace through the establishment of appropriate institutions; the sustained engagement and support of the international community, especially the United Nations, particularly with respect to the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants; and the continuing involvement of the United Nations agencies and international institutions in the reconstruction of the country.

53. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African countries emerging from conflict had the potential to be a useful instrument in guiding African countries in the transition from conflict to durable peace. The European Union was therefore pleased that the Council had authorized its President to engage in consultations regarding the modalities for the establishment of such a group for Guinea-Bissau. That would allow the Council to demonstrate the value of that instrument in practice.

54. **Mr. Lamba** (Observer for Malawi), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that Mozambique's achievements represented a noble example that could be emulated by other countries emerging from conflict. Malawi shared a border with Mozambique and had played host to nearly a million and a half Mozambicans for many years. Mozambique's success had been achieved largely by Mozambicans themselves, for they had resolutely turned their backs on the culture of war and had promoted national reconciliation and nurtured vibrant democratic debate for nation-building. While the United Nations had played an important supporting role in stabilizing the country, its present phenomenal economic performance was a function of a Government based on transparency and accountability.

55. **Mr. Santa Clara Gomes** (Observer for Portugal) said that the international community must remain engaged in Mozambique in order to permit the country to continue on the path to sustainable development. He welcomed the ongoing dialogue between the Government and the opposition. Mozambique's efforts to ensure long-term development and the promotion and protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law ensured that it would be among the first countries to benefit from the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and ensure its involvement in development partnerships at the national, regional and international levels. The success now being celebrated was the outcome of a partnership between the United Nations, the wider international community and the Mozambican Government. That partnership should be continued and existing initiatives of international organizations and United Nations agencies should be strengthened.

56. The donor community must fully play its indispensable role in accordance with the commitments made at the recent United Nations conferences, including the Millennium Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Guinea-Bissau's request for the establishment of a group to assist it indicated that African countries trusted the United Nations system; the Organization must continue to uphold that trust.

57. **Mr. Siv** (United States of America) congratulated the Government and people of Mozambique on the tenth anniversary of the signing of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique. The Agreement and its implementation testified to the political commitment of both Government and opposition to move forward to benefit the people of Mozambique. Both sides deserved praise for their leadership.

58. Mozambique was an example of the positive role that the United Nations and the international community could play in conflict resolution and post-war development. ONUMOZ had played a critical role in laying the groundwork for free and fair elections, while the donor community had worked in concert with the Mozambican Government to rebuild the nation's shattered economy. Mozambique was a model of multiparty democracy and free market-led economic development in Africa. The impressive progress

achieved to date was an inspiration for other nations on the continent and elsewhere. His Government was committed to working with Mozambique in its continuing efforts to consolidate democracy, reduce poverty and improve the lives of its citizens.

59. **Mr. Francese** (Italy) said that his country was proud to have contributed to the birth of a peaceful and democratic Mozambique. A wide range of parties, both internal and external, had worked together to achieve peace in Mozambique. The country's success had yielded a development model that could be applied to other countries emerging from conflict. Mozambique's achievements in 10 years of peace attested to the potential for economic and social growth when African countries decided to take charge of their own destiny. Forward-looking initiatives, such as the African Union and NEPAD, were steps in the right direction. The outcome of the situation in Mozambique had highlighted the necessity for coherent and coordinated efforts by the United Nations and the wider international community. The strengthening of cooperation between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council was most welcome in that regard, as was the establishment of the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African countries emerging from conflict. Italy fully supported the intention to establish such a group on Guinea-Bissau and stood ready to assist Mozambique in its efforts to improve the social and economic conditions of its people.

60. **Mr. Stanislavov** (Russian Federation) said that, while the international community, especially the United Nations, had clearly played a significant role in the achievement of peace in Mozambique, the decisive factor was the aspiration of the Mozambican people for peace and stability. Mozambique was one of the most successful models of post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation. The full engagement of the international community in issues ranging from electoral assistance, repatriation of refugees to eradication of poverty had contributed to that outcome. His country had provided humanitarian assistance and was helping a number of African countries, including Mozambique, to deal with their foreign debt. He wished the people of Mozambique further success in meeting the significant challenges ahead and expressed support for the decision of the Economic and Social Council to set up an ad hoc group on Guinea-Bissau.

61. **Mr. Kumamoto** (Japan) said that the people's aspirations, coupled with disarmament and demobilization of former combatants, had been critical to the success of the peace process in Mozambique. The commitment of the international community was also vital. Japan had provided assistance in the area of landmine removal and displaced persons. Some of the lessons from Mozambique had been applied in Sierra Leone and elsewhere. In that regard, it was necessary to evaluate and examine past activities on a continuing basis.

62. **Mr. Simao** (Mozambique) said he was pleased to note that Mozambique's successes had galvanized the United Nations to face other challenges more resolutely, and was encouraged to note that it would continue to have the support and solidarity of the international community in facing the challenges ahead.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.